

butterflies to fly. Losses from such positions are virtually non-existent. If the butterflies are removed with forceps shortly before dawn and set on the bare ground below the weeds, nearly all have been eaten within an hour after sunrise. (If they are removed at dusk and set on the ground, most are gone before morning — the mice or shrews have got them.) There is certainly much more to avian predation on butterflies than attacks in mid-air!

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A WEEK IN WEYMOUTH IN JULY 1977. — I spent a week in the Weymouth area from 16th to 23rd July, 1977 hoping in particular to renew my acquaintance with the Lulworth Skipper (*Thymelicus acteon* Rott.), and also to explore the immediate vicinity of the town (including Portland Bill) and the coastal paths in both directions.

The weather was generally good with reasonable spells of sunshine, though rather windy at times, and I recorded the following species of butterfly in order of declining abundance with the last four each contributing only one sighting: — *Melanargia galathea* L., *Maniola jurtina* L., *Pyronia tithonus* L., *Thymelicus sylvestris* Poda, *Ochlodes venata* B. & G., *Aglais urticae* L., *Coenonympha pamphilus* L., *Pieris brassicae* L., *Pieris rapae* L., *Pieris napi* L., *Polyommatus icarus* Rott., *Pararge aegeria*, L., *Thymelicus acteon* Rott., *Aphantopus hyperanthus* L., *Polygonia c-album* L., *Vanessa atalanta* L. and *Vanessa cardui* L.

It was a pleasant surprise (certainly for an observer from Stafford) to note the profusion of *galathea*. My main quarry, *acteon*, was present in small numbers at a locality west of Lulworth Cove, whilst the most surprising omission during the week was surely *phlaeas*. A particularly productive area was a long bank of brambles, grasses and various flora just north-east of Ferrybridge. This locality held good numbers of *galathea*, *jurtina*, *tithonus*, *sylvestris* and *venata*, and was the only area where *icarus* and *hyperanthus* were recorded. Several small skippers at this site had dark brown tips to the under-sides of the antennae, which I assume were atypical *sylvestris* or *lineola* and I should be interested to hear if any other observers have seen the latter species in the Weymouth area. Incidentally, this bank was the classic habitat for the Great Green Bush Cricket (*Tettigonia viridissima*) and a rather cursory search revealed five or six of these insects.

The rough, sloping meadows west of Osmington Mills were excellent for *galathea* and *jurtina*, whilst the only *cardui* of the week was imbibing at wild privet near Redcliff Point. The only moths recorded were the day-flying *Callimorpha jacobaeae* L., *Zygaena filipendulae* L., *Plusia gamma* L., *Otholitha chenopodiata* L. and, at Radipole Lake, a single *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. — G. SUMMERS, 23 West Close, Stafford, ST16 3TG.